

REMARKS

Claims 10-15 are pending in the application.

Claims Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 10-15 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abraham (WO 02/36314 A1) in view of Hildebrandt (DE 3310706 A1). The Examiner's rejection has been carefully considered.

In the rejection, the Examiner states that Figures 1-8 of Abraham, if flipped upside-down, teach a hair-cutting machine in which the oscillating blade is above the stationary blade and the cutting plane is inclined downwards with respect to the longitudinal axis of the handle.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. The configurations of the stationary blade 18 and oscillating blade 20 of the presently claimed invention are reversed in comparison to the apparatus taught by Abraham (see the Appendix). To facilitate a comparison between Abraham and the present invention, Figure 8 of Abraham is shown in its mirror image side-by-side with Figure 10 of the present drawings. As can be seen in the comparison, stationary blade 55 (above) and oscillating blade 20 (below) of Abraham are reversed relative to stationary blade 18 (below) and oscillating blade 20 (above) of the presently claimed invention. Consequently, it is not possible to achieve the presently claimed configuration by rotating the blade head taught by Abraham around axis A. Hildebrandt does not teach a reversal of the configuration taught by Abraham.

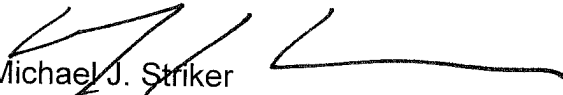
Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn because neither Abraham nor Hildebrandt nor their combination teach or suggest a hair-cutting machine comprising a stationary blade and an oscillating blade disposed above the stationary blade in an operating position of the handle so that the stationary blade

and oscillating blade define a cutting plane that is inclined downward in relation to a longitudinal axis of the handle.

Conclusion

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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